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EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

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(84) Designated Contracting States: AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU MC NL PT SE Designated Extension States: AL LT LV MK RO SI	(72) Inventor: Hamburg, Mark California 95066 (US) (74) Representative: Wombwell, Francis et al Potts, Kerr & Co. 15, Hamilton Square Birkenhead Merseyside CH41 6BR (GB)
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(54)

User-defined erasure brush for modifying digital image

(57) A method and apparatus for erasing a feature from a digital image. The method includes identifying a plurality of tip regions on the image each including multiple pixels of the image and each covering a portion of the feature and sequentially processing the tip regions to erase the feature. The sequential processing includes determining an erasure color, defining a color match function for the tip region, applying the color match function to each pixel in the tip region including determining a color match value for each pixel and completely erasing ones of the pixels in the tip region that have a color match value greater than a threshold value. For a pixel having a color match value less than the threshold, an erasure function is applied to the target pixel. A contribution of the erasure color is removed from a color associated with the target pixel where the effect of each action of processing a tip region is recorded in the digital image before any subsequent action of processing a tip region is performed.

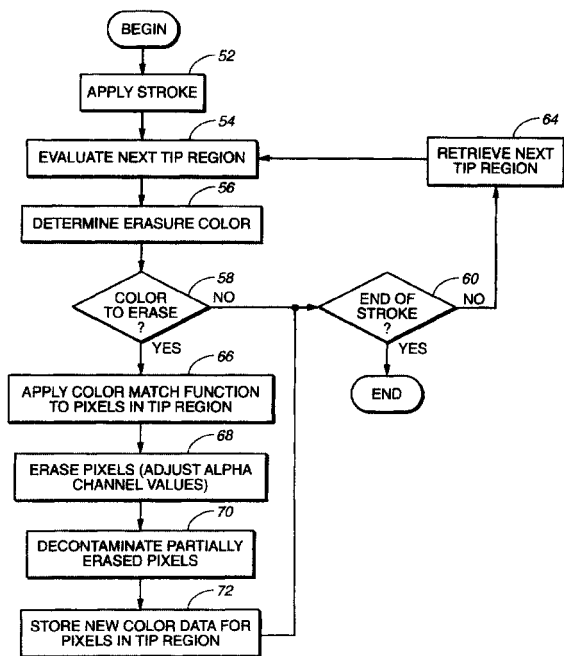


FIG._2



European Patent
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 00 30 3476

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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
X	WO 98 11510 A (DISCREET LOGIC INC ;PETTIGREW DANIEL (CA); DISCREET LOGIC UK LTD () 19 March 1998 (1998-03-19) * page 2, line 20 - line 23 * * page 6, line 13 - line 19 * * page 8, line 5 - line 13 * ---	1-102	G06T15/50
A	WO 96 13006 A (ZIMMER MARK ALAN ;DERRY JOHN (US)) 2 May 1996 (1996-05-02) * page 5, line 18 - line 34 * -----	1-102	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			G06T
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search BERLIN		Date of completion of the search 17 February 2003	Examiner Burgaud, C
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 00 30 3476

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The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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17-02-2003

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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82